



MEMO

Date: September 10, 2003

To: National Children's Study Working Group Members

From: National Children's Study Advisory Committee

Subject: Next Round of Solicitation for Proposed Core Hypotheses
Hypothesis Request: Format for Revised and New Hypothesis

The National Children's Study Advisory Committee (NCSAC) is requesting that Working Groups (WGs) respond to specific questions and concerns from the recent September 15–16, 2003 NCSAC Meeting. We have included guidance as attachments to this letter (***Hypothesis Proposal Form***), to assist WGs in submitting their revised hypothesis. Please use this format when submitting revisions. During the next few weeks, NCSAC liaisons will work with their assigned WGs to complete these documents with additional support from the National Children's Study Program Office and the logistics contractor (Circle Solutions, Inc). These documents may be based on existing materials, as well as additional or new materials requested by the NCSAC.

The goal of the NCSAC is to have one set of revised hypotheses for review at the December Meeting, at which time a “final” set of NCSAC recommendations will be provided. We all realize the need to reach some degree of closure on broad core hypotheses to provide a framework for protocol development and design. Thus, although technically the hypotheses will have some iteration as design proceeds, for all practical purposes, they will be completed this spring.

As you well know, several hypotheses require interdisciplinary effort to be effective in the Study. Thus, during the next few months “WG teams” may be identified and asked to collaborate on particular hypotheses. Ultimately, a WG may be asked to take the lead for managing a team and providing the revised hypothesis. This will make assignments clearer and avoid redundancy since at present some WGs are duplicating efforts.

The NCSAC appreciates your continued interest and the time and effort you have devoted to the Study during this planning phase.

Attachment: Hypothesis Proposal Form

- Part I: Guide for Writing Your Core Hypothesis Proposal
- Part II: Hypothesis Submission Form